(b) In order to enable the World Bank to complete the preparation of the project concept document in a time bound manner and to avoid delay in signing the agreement, Government of India suggested to Government of Karnataka that tanks falling within the Cauvery basin may not be included under the Karnataka Tank Improvement Project. To this, the Government of Karnataka informed to the Government of India that they have since decided to delete the tanks falling in the Cauvery basin from the proposed project.

(c) to (e) The Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal through its Interim Order dated 25-6-1991 has directed the State of Karnataka not to increase its area under irrigation by the waters of river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lakh acres. This area includes an area of 2.93 lakh acres under minor irrigation. The Government of Karnataka can implement any project in Cauvery basin which envisages addition to the existing irrigated area in the basin either with the consent of the co-basin States or with the specific approval of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal.

World Bank's Assistance to Disiltation of Tanks

309. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government and State Governments have been spending a lot of amount to disilt tanks, rivers, dams and seas for the better use of water and to maintain the storing capacities of dams and also for good maintenance;

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) what will be the advantages and disadvantages in case the tanks are disilted;

(d) whether the World Bank has come forward to give Financial assistance for disilting of tanks in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c)

The National Water Policy, 1987 provides that the Water Resources should be conserved and the availability be augmented by maximising retention and minimizing losses. Irrigation is a State subject and planning implementation, operation and maintenance of all irrigation schemes including disilting of minor irrigation tanks is taken up by the State Governments according to their own priority and availability of funds. Disilting of reservoir to regain their retention capacity has been adopted by the States. Disiltation of minor irrigation tanks has been taken up by the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry through external assistance on a moderate scale. Disilting of dams and river is not technically viable for improving their storage capacity as disposal of removed silt is not environmentally sustainable. Disilting of navigation channels in sea ports and inland waterways is taken up to increase the available draft to maintain their navigability.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of Karnataka submitted the Karnataka Tank Improvement Project for World Bank assistance of Rs. 946.47 crores. The project envisages to create an additional irrigation potential of 1,80,000 hectares as a result of rehabilitation of 6000 Minor Irrigation tanks. The proposal was recommended to the World Bank on 05.10.2000. The project is under appraisal and Preparation Mission of World Bank has visited Karnataka during 11—18th June 2001 for this purpose.

Wastage of River Water

310. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how much river water and Peninsular river water is wasted to sea every year in India;

(b) whether a study has been made as to area irrigated, quantity of agricultural produce, its cost, mandays generated, cost benefit ratio regarding the water wasted to sea;